

REMARKS

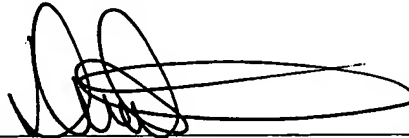
Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This amendment cancels claims 1-8. It is respectfully acknowledged that claims 9-23 have been indicated as being allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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